

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

### Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *New Writers*  
and *Petty-Statesmen*, of all Sides.

---

Tuesday, May 23. 1704.

---

**W**E told you in our last, of a Trial at Law, at the Queen's Bench Bar at *Westminster*, about a Gentleman's Assassinating another in the Street, after having twice Challeng'd him, once for himself, once for another Man — and that on a full Tryal, the Assassin was Fin'd 200 Marks, and the other 100 Pounds.

Our Scandalous Club brings a Case before them of another Gentleman, who stabb'd an Honest Man into the Back, as he was going up Stairs.

I have related both these Stories, in Order to compare our Proceedings in such Cases in *England*, and to shew how much more Justice is to be had in like Cases in *France*: Not that I would too highly applaud the *French* Justice, but that I should be glad to make an Essay towards an Act of Parliament, for better settling this Matter in our *English* Laws.

As to Challenging, Assassinating, and the like, the first would have been immediate Death without Mercy, as we have seen in various Instances already, as to Assaulting a Man in the Street with Cane and Sword, endeavouring to force him to fight; I shall not pretend to say what the Court of Honour in *France* would have awarded in such a Case, but this I can tell, that they have been very severe in like Cases.

A Gentleman of *Normandy*, who is now in Town, and who did us the Honour to give in the Story, was Assaulted by another Gentleman, as he was walking up a narrow Passage with two Ladies, and no Sword on; the other Gentleman came down upon him, with his Sword drawn, he defended himself with a little Cane he had in his hand, and putting by his Pass, clos'd with him; the Ladies frighted with the Accident, as might be expected, soon call'd in help, enough to prevent farther Mischief.

As this Action made some Noise in the Town, they had each of them a Guard sent to their Lodgings the next Morning, and of Course the thing was brought before the Proper Magistrate; where, upon a full Hearing, the Gentleman who had drawn his Sword, was Order'd Publickly to ask his Pardon, and was oblig'd, if he met the other Person in the Street, to cross the way, and give him the Passage: He was further Order'd, not to come into his Company; and if he happened to be where the other came, he was to go out of the Room.

As to our Justice of Peace, I cannot guess what Reparation could have been made in in his Case, better than by a short Story which happened in *Bretaign*, not much unlike it.

Z

A

A Burgher of the Town of——coming a little abruptly into a Room, where some Gentlemen was Drinking, and as was suppos'd, were a little out of their own Government, *Anglicè* Drunk; seeing the Burgher come in, took the Advantage of him, and stepping behind him, made fast the Door, and made him sit down.

They Drunk him very hard, but in that, he being a fresh Man, was too many for them; and at last they Quarrell'd with him, two of them in particular Can'd him, but he being a strong Fellow, got them both down, and had made an end of them there, if the rest had not pull'd him off; at which making to the Door, he got it open, and made off; one of the two that he had got down, being very nimble, follow'd him, and stab'd him into the Shoulder, as he was going down the Stairs.

Every body thought the Man had been kill'd, and the apprehensions of that, made them all Sober enough to fly for it; but as it happened the Man recovered, and the Offenders one by one began to appear again, and by Friends and Money to appease him, that he should not Prosecute them.—

The Burgher willingly put up all the first part of the Quarrel, but would not the last; and it was heard before the Magistrate who awarded 4000 Livres Damages to the Burgher; the Person who did it, was to come and ask his Pardon in the Street, on his Knees, and Imprisonment for 8 Years.

Had the Person been a Magistrate of Peace, I very much Question if he should not have been hang'd.

I shall give but one Relation more in this Case, and that is concerning *L'Amende Honorable*, or the Satisfaction of Honour due to the Ladies in *France*; and of this we have a famous Instance, of a Gentleman of *Normandy*, whose Name I omit, because he is still alive, and Married to the Lady we are to mention, tho' they are very unhappy together.

The Count de G——, a Person of good Quality, in *Normandy* Court'd Mademoiselle D——, a Lady of a very considerable Fortune, in the same Province, and had so far obtain'd upon her Resolutions, that she had agreed to Marry him, and all things were in a great forwardness for the Cere-

mony, so forward, that the Lady in Equipages she had prepar'd, had cloath'd her Footmen in his Livery, had bought her Cloaths, and the Matter was look'd upon as concluded.

The Count in this interval, whether some New Object had surpriz'd him, or as some thought, by the Instigation of a near Relation, that had a mind to put off the Match, takes a Journey to *Rouen*, and stay'd there so long, that the Lady and her Relations were a little uneasy at his Meaning, especially considering he took no Notice of his Engagement, and either did not write at all to her, or so coldly, as she might perceive there was some distaste.

But if Mademoiselle was disturb'd at the absence of her Lover, she was more surpriz'd when one Morning she receiv'd a Letter from him by a Page, full of all the most disobliging things in the World, Reproaching her Family, her Character, and above all, her Honesty.

Nor was this all, but he follow'd it with several others of the same Nature, and made it the common Subject of his Discourse.

The Lady had several Brothers, who were Gentlemen likely enough to have made ill work of such an Affair as this; but as the Laws were too well known in that Case for any Wife Man to venture, they took care to bring it before the *Marschal de Befonds*, who was then in the Province.

At the hearing of the Case, the Marschal demanded, if he could bring any Proof against the Reputation of the Young Lady, which being attempted in Vain, and he having no Original but from a Lady, whose own Reputation was too mean to obtain any Credit, the Marschal Condemn'd him in a breach of Honour to the Lady, and Sentenc'd him as follows:

First, He was to go to her Mothers House, and in the Presence of as many of her Friends as she pleas'd to have there, was to acknowledge he had wrong'd her, and was to ask her Pardon; he was to Pay her 10000 Livres for Damages, and was order'd to lie in close Prison 5 Months.

That this Lady afterwards Married this Gentleman, and has been very unhappy in it, is nothing to the present purpose, and therefore I omit it. If



If any Man think this Discourse of Duelling Remote from our Design, and a too long Digression, I must tell him, if I had thought so, I should not have Trespass'd so much on the Patience of the Reader; but as I supposed these Accounts must be particularly diverting, and would be more so if I went on, *for there are an Infinite variety of them still behind*; so I bring them all to a Propriety of Story, by this short addressing them to the Matter in hand.

They all concur in Demonstrating the Absolute Government of the King of *France* over his own Subjects, and constant Subjection of his People, of what Quality soever, to his Will, in Cases the most Mortifying in the World, and this is the Subject I am upon.

And I have been the longer upon it, because I would remind our own Nation; in what need we stand of some Law equivalent to this in *France*: I do not pretend to lead our Superiours to the manner, but something to make Reparation in Cases villainous and unhandsome, of which at present our Laws take little or no Notice.

If I am not misinform'd, this Court of Honour in *France* has brought the *French* from the most fiery, quarrellsome, captious People in the World, to be the most Masters of Temper of any People in *Europe*. A Man may travel now thro' the whole Kingdom, and see no uncivil Action, nor hear an uncivil Word; it has reduc'd their Tongues as well as Hands.

If this were put in Practice in *England*, we should not pass for such a Scolding Nation, as now we really do.

Our Scandalous Club would be dropt of

Course, Ballad-making, Lampoons, and virulent Pamphlets would cease, the Universities of *Billingsgate* and the *Bear-Garden* would lose their Privileges; and we might in time be brought to be a Nation of as much Manners as our Neighbours.

Let no Man say 'tis impossible, and our refractory Tempers are not to be reduc'd; the King of *France* has shown us by a noble Experiment, what good Laws severely executed may bring to pass; there never was an Evil so predominant in any Nation in the World, as this fighting Evil was in *France*. I have said in one of these Sheets, that 400 Men have been kill'd in a Year: I am since told, that in One Year in the Regency of the late Queen Mother, while the present King of *France* was in his Minority, there was reckoned up no less than 1700 Gentlemen kill'd by Duelling in *France*.

As no Evil ever prevail'd so much on a People, so no Mischief was ever so effectually suppress'd, nor the Cause to all Intents and Purposes so entirely remov'd; for since such ample Satisfaction is to be obtain'd upon the least Complaint, such inevitable Destruction attending the contrary, none but Madmen, such as have neither Sense, Family, or Friends, will ever run the Risque of fighting; and nothing can be a greater Proof both of the prudent Management of the Government in *France*, and the entire Subjection of the People.

Our next will bring us back where this Digression left off, and pursue the remaining Articles of *French* Grandeur, according to the first Proposal.

In our last, for 100 s. r. 100 l.

## ADVICE from the Scandalous CLUB.

A Diligent Reader of these Papers came hastily into the Club, and without Ceremony addressing himself to the Director, made them this short Speech.

Gentlemen,

You have told us very much of a Court of Honour, and L' amende Honorable in *France*; pray, if there were such a Court in *England*, and you were brought before them, what do you think would become of you?

The Speech ended, the Gentleman was desired to sit down, and he should have an immediate Answer.

And first he was shown the Copy of this Paper, before it went to the Press, wherein 'twas suppos'd, that a Court of Honour would so effectually suppress all Scandalous Affairs in the Town, that there would be no Business for us, and so we should cease of Course.

But



But as this was not his Meaning, he was told by Order of the Society as a more direct Answer to his Question.

1. That if we were to be brought before a Court of Honour, the first thing they would require of us, would be *when any Person had complain'd of being affronted that we should prove the Fact.*

If we could not prove what was alleg'd to be true, we should be censur'd as Malicious, Underminers of other Men's Reputation, Exposers of People for Crimes they never committed, making Sport with other People's Misfortunes, and the like; should accordingly be fin'd, imprison'd, made to beg Pardon, go on t' other Side of the Way, and the like.

But, Gentlemen, if all we have said can be made out, if when we have told of a drunken Justice fallen into the Mill-pond, or an eminent Citizen taken with a Twelve-penny Whore, if when we have told of a Magistrate stabbing a Man into the Back in the Dark, or a Man of Letters corresponding with our Enemies abroad. If these things are true, and can be made out; if these Men have Names and are to be found out by their Characters; if writing Nonsense, or translating Foreign Nonsense into English Nonsense; if false Geography and false History be to be found among our News-writers; why then, Gentlemen, with all our Hearts to a Court of Honour with us, as soon as you please. I never yet heard the Court of Marshals fin'd a Person for Reproach, while he only slandered the Man with the Matter of Truth; you may say the vilest thing of a Man in France that can be imagin'd, provided it is but true; but if it happen to be a Lye, if the Charge be false, then the Author is punish'd to Purpose: Now if ye can take our Society there, Gentlemen, we are content.

With this Answer the Gentleman was dismiss'd; and if he is not satisfied, he is welcome to come again.

Our Club was very sorry to have a new Author brought before them, the very first time of his publick Appearance in the World — but a Paper coming out Num. 1. Entitled the *Portugal Memoir*, which being but a half Sheet, was sold for Six Pence, and the Person that bought it expecting something in it proportioned to the Price, brought it to the Society in Revenge for the Disappointment.

The Society us'd the Author civilly, it being the first Offence, and only admonished him in his next to explain the following Clauses from *Lisbon*.

The *Lime* and *Mary Galley* took in Arms and Ammunition for *Savoy* and the *Cevennes*. *Querie*, Where those Arms, &c. for the *Cevennes*, are to be landed?

The Spaniards found the Alarm, and immediately took it.

The Meaning of this we wait for in his next.

Advertisements are taken in by J. Matthews, in *Pilkington-Court* in *Little Britain*.

#### ADVERTISEMENT S.

Next Term will be publish'd,

THE Famous Dispensary Poem, continued to this Time; with a large Commentary, fully Explaining the Characters of little *Mirmil*, *Sonne Querpo*, and all the other Physicians Graduate and not Graduate, who betray the Patients and their Profession to the Empiricks.

A Discourse upon the Pharisee and the *Publican*: Wherein Several Great and Weighty Things are handled: As the Nature of Prayer, and of Obedience to the Law, with how far it obliges Christians, and wherein it consists: Wherein is also shewed equally the deplorable Condition of the Pharisee or Hypocritical and Self-righteous Man, and of the *Publican*, or Sinner that lives in Sin, and in open Violation of the Divine Laws: Together with the Way and Method of God's Free-Grace in Pardoning Penitent Sinners; proving that he justifies them by imputing Christ's Righteousness to them. By *John Bunyan*, Author of the *Pilgrim's Progress*. The Third Edition. Printed for *John Marshall*, at the Bible in *Grace-church street*. 1704. Books Sold by *Jeffery Wale*, at the Angel in *St. Paul's-Church-Tard*.

VIRI CLAUDIA Tacqueti Elementa Geometria a Guil. Whiston. 8vo. — Geo. Baglivi Praxis Medica, ad prisecam observandi rationem revocanda, Libri duo. 8vo. — Epigrammatum Delectus ex omnibus tum Veteribus tum Recentioribus, accuratè descriptus; quibus hæc sexta Editio subjungitur alterius Delectus Specimen ex nuperis maxime Poetis ab electioribus prætermisiss. In usum Scholæ Atonensis. 12°.

†† A Doctor in Physick Cures all the Degrees and Indispositions in Venereal Persons, by a most easie, safe, and expeditious Method; and of whom any Person may have Advice, and a perfect Cure, let his or her Disease be of the longest Date: He likewise gives his Advice in all Diseases, and prescribes a Cure. Dr. HARBOROUGH, (a Graduate Physician) in Great Knight-Riders-street, near Doctors Commons.